agreed to let the society distribute a million free Bibles on the island, but many of those, the society has learned, were converted into pulp to help ease Havana's shortage of newsprint.

PARIS — How serious are the Chinese Communists about building up their trade with France? The tip-off: a Chinese agent is shopping around town for a building to house a permanent Peking trade mission. Word is he will pay up to $300,000 cash for the right site.

Inside Story

EXECUTIVE WING — President Johnson's letter to newly appointed Assistant Secretary of State Thomas C. Mann (assigning him the "coordination and direction" of all Latin American policies and programs) was ghostwritten. The ghost: Mann himself. The President, insiders say, agreed to let the former Ambassador to Mexico write his own ticket in order to get him to take on all of America's south-of-the-border chores.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Library of Congress has asked the three major networks to contribute their entire TV coverage of JFK's funeral ceremonies for its archives. It would cost about $40,000 to process the TV tapes—roughly 70 hours' worth—and covert them into filmstrips. The ABC network already has agreed.

PENTAGON — Despite the new friendly look around the Kremlin, the U.S. is keeping its powder dry. Work on an anti-missile missile is proceeding at a $400 million-a-year clip. And though the Pentagon experts are by no means convinced that the Russians have an effective anti-missile defense system, another $300 million is going into "penetration devices" to foil interception, just in case.

RENO — The Air Force's "torture school"—the escape and evasion training course for Strategic Air Command crews—may be on its way out. Secretary McNamara's order closing Stead Air Force Base here leaves the school without a home. The Air Force is uncertain whether to move the school—or to drop it.

CHICAGO — With that $50 million NASA electronics center (once considered a sure bet for Boston) still under consideration, Chicago is going all-out to win it. A top-level group of business, industrial, and educational leaders presented Chicago's case in Washington last week; and, on the political front, Chicago's Democratic Mayor Richard Daley and Republican Sen. Everett Dirksen, Senate Minority Leader, are thumping for the project.

BERNE — The ever-neutral Swiss have made an exception to their practice of avoiding any contact with NATO. A Swiss team has been sent quietly to Paris to negotiate for purchase of U.S. air-to-air Sidewinder missiles. Why not to the U.S.? By buying from NATO—which manufactures Sidewinders in Europe—the Swiss can get the missiles for less than the $3,800 apiece charged for those made in the U.S.

Where Are They Now?

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — One of the grand old men of the missionary world (page 36) is spending a rare Christmas at home this year. But the Rev. Frank C. Laubach, the Congregational minister who has already helped more than 60 million people in 70 countries to learn to read and write, is far from retired at 79. President of the Laubach Literacy Fund, he lives in an apartment here with his wife, Effa. He started his missionary work in 1915 in the Philippines, devised the first written Moro language. The world's illiterates are, he says, "slaves, hungry, diseased, afraid of this world and of the demons in the next . . ."

DETROIT — The Rev. Robert W. Greene, a Roman Catholic missionary in China for fifteen years until he was expelled by the Reds in 1952 after two and a half years of jail and torture, would like to return. "I like the Chinese people very much." For the present, however, Father Greene is living at the Maryknoll Fathers House here and recruiting throughout the Midwest for his missionary society. Once sentenced by the Reds to be beheaded, he recalls that he was "the last active missionary in south China. The only one left," he added, "is a Maryknoller, Bishop James Edward Walsh. He's in prison. He ordained me."